



MEMORANDUM

EXHIBIT 8
DATE 2-5-07
HB HB 309

To: ATA State Trucking Association Executives
From: Rich Moskowitz, Assistant General Counsel and Regulatory Counsel
Date: January 19, 2007
Re: Biodiesel -- Member Education

This memorandum provides background information on ATA's existing policy concerning biodiesel, financial considerations associated with biodiesel use, and operational concerns associated with the use of biodiesel.

A. ATA's Biodiesel Policy:

ATA's energy policy is grounded in the belief that there should be one national diesel fuel standard. As such, ATA has vigorously opposed any state-mandated boutique diesel fuels.¹ In October 2005, ATA's Board of Directors approved a policy in support of the voluntary use of high quality biodiesel in blends of up to five percent as a reasonable means to extend the supply of diesel fuel. The policy recognizes that the operational challenges presented by biodiesel (i.e., cold weather performance, reduced fuel economy, and engine warranty issues) are minimized if high quality biodiesel is used in a low percentage blend. The policy also states ATA's preference for a national diesel standard and its opposition to state boutique fuel mandates. The text of the ATA policy is reprinted below:

The trucking industry supports a single national diesel fuel standard. The use of biodiesel, in blends of up to 5% (i.e., B5), is an appropriate means to increase the supply of diesel fuel, provided that the biodiesel blend meets the ASTM D975 standard for on-road diesel fuel. The trucking industry supports voluntary research, investigation and demonstration projects that evaluate the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of using alternative fuels in commercial fleet vehicles. The trucking industry does not support state or municipal government mandates to use alternative fuels. . . . Alternative fuels should not be exempt from the payment of highway taxes or other fees to maintain the network of roads. An equitable taxation program is central to the most-effective use of alternative fuels on our nation's highways. Federal and state tax incentives to encourage the use of alternative fuels, including biodiesel, are appropriate, provided, however, that no such incentives, at either the federal or state level, should be financed out of or reduce funds collected or otherwise designated for transportation funding.

¹ "Boutique fuels" are locally-mandated, unique fuel specifications that result in the inability to transfer fuel from other areas of the country. Boutique fuels generally cost more than fuel that complies with the national standards. Boutique fuels harm the trucking industry by creating an uneven playing field and by preventing petroleum distributors from quickly responding to local shortages of diesel by transferring fuel from neighboring jurisdictions.



B. Economic Considerations:

Neat biodiesel (B100) has a lower energy content than No. 2 diesel, which results in a reduction of approximately seven to nine percent in maximum power output.² There is insufficient data on the impact that low percentage blends of biodiesel have upon fuel economy.

Currently, biodiesel is more expensive to produce than petroleum-based diesel. The chart below provides details on the costs of producing and distributing biodiesel:

Biodiesel Production Costs (January 2007):

- Soy Oil Feedstock (7.5 lbs./gal.)	29 cents	\$ 2.18
- Methanol (12%-20% by volume)		\$.10 - .20
- Catalyst		\$.10 - .12
- Electricity		\$.01
- Natural Gas (boiler - heat)		\$.08 - .10
- Labor and Overhead		\$.05 - .10
- Maintenance		\$.03 - .05
- Insurance & Tax		\$.03 - .05
- Depreciation		\$.05 - .10
Total Production Costs		\$ 2.63 - \$ 2.90
Wholesale price of diesel		\$ 1.62 (ULSD)

The federal JOBS bill of 2004 added a new tax credit for biodiesel that became effective January 1, 2005. Available to blenders of biodiesel mixtures, the credit is taken against the federal excise tax on fuel in the amount of 1 cent for each percentage point of biodiesel blended into the diesel fuel. The credit may be taken even if the resulting biodiesel blend is used in an application not subject to the federal fuel tax – off-road use, for instance, or use in an exempt vehicle. If a blender's credit exceeds its excise tax liability, the excess may be claimed as an income tax credit. The new credit is not subject to the federal alternative minimum tax and has no effect on the federal Highway Trust Fund.

The existence of these federal subsidies has resulted in biodiesel being competitively priced with petroleum diesel in those parts of the country where biodiesel is produced. The transportation of biodiesel, however, significantly increases its cost, since biodiesel does not move by pipeline and must be transported in tank trucks or rail tank cars.

A review of the October 2006 Clean Cities Alternative Fuel Price Report revealed the following price differentials between a twenty percent biodiesel blend (B20) and petroleum diesel. The prices set forth in the chart below are retail prices that include federal, state and local taxes:

² No. 2 diesel fuel typically contains about 140,000 BTUs per gallon, while biodiesel made from vegetable oil typically contains about 130,000 BTUs per gallon.



MEMORANDUM

Location	Diesel Fuel	Biodiesel (B20)	Price Differential
New England	\$2.67	\$2.55	(\$0.12)
Lower Atlantic	\$2.58	\$2.64	\$0.06
Midwest	\$2.57	\$2.41	(\$0.16)
Gulf Coast	\$2.51	\$2.60	\$0.09
Rocky Mountains	\$2.62	\$2.71	\$0.09
West Coast	\$2.74	\$2.78	\$0.04
National Average	\$2.62	\$2.66	4 cents

There are also a wide variety of state biodiesel incentives. These incentives change frequently and a complete discussion of these incentives is beyond the scope of this memorandum.

C. Technical Considerations:

Engine Performance – Neat biodiesel and high percentage biodiesel blends can cause a variety of engine performance problems, including filter plugging, injector coking, piston ring sticking and breaking, elastomer seal swelling and hardening/cracking, and severe engine lubricant degradation. Additional testing is needed to determine whether these operational issues are present at low percentage blends used over an extended period of time. According to the Engine Manufacturers Association, biodiesel blends up to a maximum of B5 should not cause engine or fuel system problems, provided the biodiesel used in the blend meets the requirements of ASTM D 6751. EMA recommends that the conditions of seals, hoses, gaskets, and wire coatings should be monitored regularly when biodiesel fuels are used. Older trucks (pre-1994) may require upgraded components to ensure trouble-free operation.

Warranties – Individual engine manufacturers determine what implications, if any, the use of biodiesel fuel has on the manufacturers' commercial warranties. Engine manufacturers warrant their engines for "materials and workmanship." An engine company will cover a fault with an engine part or with engine operation within the prescribed warranty period, if the fault is due to an error in manufacturing or assembly. Typically, an engine company will define what fuel the engine was designed for and will recommend the use of that fuel to their customers in their owners' manuals. Engine companies do not, however, warranty fuel. Engine problems arising directly from fuel use (and not a fault in materials and workmanship) are the responsibility of the fuel supplier and not the engine manufacturer. According to the Engine Manufacturer's Association (EMA), biodiesel blends up to a maximum of 5% by volume (B5) should not cause engine or fuel system problems, provided the B100 used in the blend meets the requirements of ASTM D 6751. If blends exceeding B5 are desired, vehicle owners and operators should consult their engine manufacturer regarding the implications of using such fuel.

Solvent Properties – Biodiesel acts as a solvent, which can remove deposits from fuel tanks and cause filter plugging. As a result, more frequent fuel filter changes are anticipated, which will increase maintenance costs. Switching between No. 2 diesel and biodiesel blends may cause a fuel filter to become clogged. Additional research is needed to determine whether low percentage blends of biodiesel will act as a solvent and necessitate unexpected fuel filter changes.



Cold Weather Performance – Gasolines have freezing points well below even the most severe winter conditions. Petroleum diesel fuels, however, have both pour points and cloud points (the temperature at which a cloud or haze of wax crystals first appears and separates from the fuel) well within the range of cold temperatures at which they might be used. Biodiesel has the same issues, but at even higher temperatures. The cloud point for biodiesel will vary based on the type of feedstock used. Whereas No. 2 diesel typically gels at 16°F, soy-based biodiesel gels at 32°F, and biodiesel derived from animal fat gels at 68°F. Users of a 20 percent biodiesel blend (B20) will experience a decrease in cold flow performance (cold filter plugging point, cloud point, pour point) of approximately 3°F to 5°F. Anti-gelling products, heating systems for fuel tanks and blending with No. 1 diesel fuel have been used to prevent gelling, but each of these options adds to operating costs.

Lubricity – In 2006, the United States began a transition to ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD). To meet the new 15 ppm sulfur specification of ULSD, refiners have employed a severe hydrotreating process. The end result is a cleaner fuel, but also one that is poor in lubricity. To compensate for this loss of lubricity, petroleum distributors use a lubricity additive to prevent premature failure of the diesel fuel injection system. The diesel fuel injection system of a modern diesel engine requires better lubrication due to higher operating pressures. The addition of small quantities of biodiesel with number one and number two diesel fuel significantly improves the lubricity of the diesel fuel. Blending as little as two percent biodiesel with petroleum diesel fuel increases the lubricity to an acceptable level for the new ultra low sulfur (15 ppm) number two diesel fuel. Although biodiesel may be an acceptable lubricity additive, it must be noted that there are existing lubricity additives that are significantly less expensive than biodiesel.

Microbial Growth – Biodiesel is an excellent medium for microbial growth, which could increase fuel system corrosion and cause premature filter plugging. Because water accelerates microbial growth and is naturally more prevalent in biodiesel fuels than in petroleum-based diesel fuels, care must be taken to remove water from fuel tanks. Anti-microbial additives may be used to address this issue.

D. Environmental Considerations:

Pure biodiesel fuels have been tested and found to be nontoxic in animal studies. Emissions from engines using biodiesel fuel have undergone health effects testing in accordance with EPA Tier II requirements for fuel and fuel additive registration. These test results indicate no biologically significant short term effects on the animals studied other than minor effects on lung tissue at high exposure levels.

Evidence exists that certain blends of biodiesel can significantly lower particulate matter, hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide emissions; studies also show that biodiesel use results in a slight increase in nitrogen oxide emissions. Unless blended at high levels, however, biodiesel does not have a significant impact on engine emissions.

**Opening Statement submitted by
American Trucking Associations, Inc.
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Transportation Biofuels Conference**

February 1, 2007

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for inviting me to share information on the subject of transportation biofuels.

My name is Charles "Shorty" Whittington and I'm President of Grammer Industries, a for-hire trucking company headquartered in Grammer, Indiana. I also own Integrity Biofuels, a 10 million gallon per year biodiesel production facility located in Morristown, Indiana.

I'm here today as a Vice-Chairman of the American Trucking Associations, and past-Chairman of the Agriculture and Food Transporters Conference – a component of ATA.

My remarks are directed to the production, distribution and use of biodiesel, which may be used as an additive to extend our supply of diesel fuel.

As the owner of both a biodiesel plant and a trucking company, I'm interested in promoting the use of biodiesel, while making sure biodiesel does not create operational problems for the end-user.

The increased voluntary use of biodiesel is an acceptable means to extend the supply of diesel fuel, reduce diesel particulate emissions, and lessen our dependence on foreign sources of oil. As the largest consumer of diesel fuel, however, the trucking industry is concerned over the absence of federally-enforced biodiesel quality standards.

I can tell you first hand that while biodiesel is relatively simple to manufacture, high quality biodiesel is very difficult to produce consistently. States are not doing an adequate job of ensuring biodiesel quality. For this reason, any program to expand the use of biodiesel must include a federal component that ensures that only high quality fuel enters the marketplace.

The trucking industry also is concerned with the growing proliferation of State-implemented renewable fuel mandates, which distort the market, limit

competition, and result in higher costs to consumers. A federal approach to increase biodiesel use is far superior to a patchwork quilt of state boutique biodiesel mandates.

While the trucking industry supports the use of biodiesel as a means to extend the diesel supply, we remain concerned over the higher costs associated with biodiesel use and the operational challenges that biodiesel blends of more than 5% create for the trucking industry. These include reduced cold weather performance and lower fuel economy.

In summary, we believe that the federal government has a role to play in ensuring the growth of the biodiesel industry.

First, ensure that all biodiesel entering the marketplace meets accepted minimum quality standards.

Second, ensure that biodiesel is used as part of a single national diesel fuel standard and preempt state boutique biodiesel mandates.

Third, enact appropriate financial incentives to ensure that the cost of using biodiesel is comparable to the cost of using petroleum-based diesel and that these incentives not reduce the amount of money needed to support and expand the nation's highway infrastructure.

And lastly, ensure that biodiesel blends are appropriately labeled, so that the end-user may make an informed decision on usage.

Thank you again for the invitation to attend today's conference and I'll be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

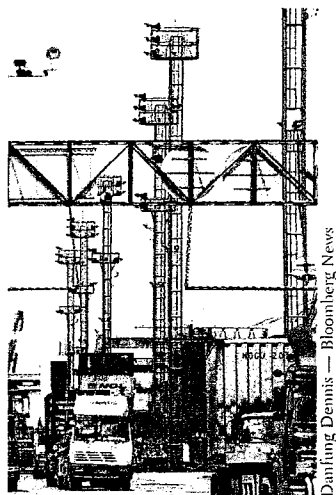
30g Down ing Spree

s in the United States spend
10%.

na's economic policy is gov-
l by a large and strict bureau-
dominated by the Commu-
nary, but it was only recently
the government recognized
importance of developing the
ics industry. Until the past few
it appeared that government
ers believed that simply pro-
g a first-rate highway network
l rectify the slow and expen-
movement of goods.

n as the nation has been
rked on an enormous highway-
ing program, spending more
\$57 billion on roads in 2004 and
that amount annually since

(See CHINA, p. 28)



s to load onto ships at the

enities to Lure Drivers

as and upgraded amenities,
speed wireless communica-
networks and new medical
ces.

e take care of more than fuel,"
David McClure, director
arketing for Petro Stopping
ers. The 63-unit chain, based
il Paso, Texas, recently
led blood-pressure monitor-
quipment and is working with
pany in Knoxville, Tenn., to
a network of health clinics
me of its truck stops (see
d story, p. 9). The company
o in discussion with Weight
hers to provide food and

counseling services for drivers.

"We provide all of a driver's
needs on the road — a laundry,
lounges, a movie theatre, store
and restaurant," McClure said.
"The challenge is economically
making it work."

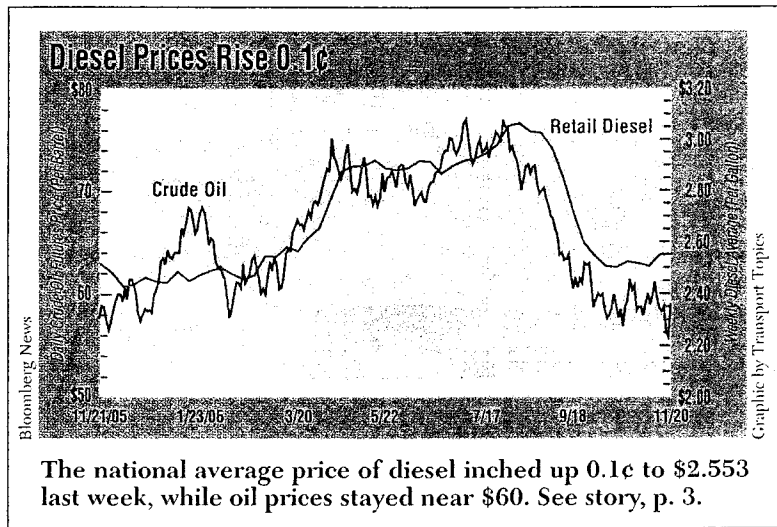
The increasing use of fuel opti-
mization programs to track diesel
prices has resulted in more drivers
going to quick-service fuel stops
to purchase diesel and parking
at full-service truck stops for food
and other amenities, McClure said.

For Petro to maintain separate

(See SERVICES, p. 8)

Group Warns on Biodiesel

TRANSPORT TOPICS November 27, 2006
Half of Samples Fail to Meet Standards, NBB Says



Used Class 8 Sales Booming; Dealers Say '07 Also Looks Good

By Frederick Kiel
Staff Reporter

Sales of used Class 8 trucks are
booming this year, just like they have
for new vehicles. But, unlike new-
truck dealers, the sellers of used
units are looking forward to 2007.

While truck manufacturers are
predicting a 30% to 40% drop in
new sales next year as a new genera-
tion of cleaner-burning — but
untested and more expensive —
diesel engines is introduced, used
truck dealers said they expect

another strong year.

"No one wants to be the first to buy
the new '07 federally mandated
engine, so more people than ever
will hunt down used trucks," Eddie
Walker, president of the Used Truck
Association, told TRANSPORT TOPICS.

"There's a definite trend upward
in used Class 8 sales, estimates of
28,000 to 30,000 vehicles this year
selling monthly, versus the normal
15,000 to 20,000," said Walker, who
is also president of Best Used
Trucks in Fort Worth, Texas.

While there is no official record
kept of used truck sales, dealers
and analysts estimated sales would
total 300,000 to 360,000 units by
the end of 2006, with prices rising
constantly.

Terry Williams, managing editor
of the Truck Blue Book, which
tracks values and markets for used
commercial trucks, agreed that 2006
sales will be higher than average, and
next year will be good, too.

"The market has definitely gone
up this year," Williams told TT.

"I can see it being 300,000 overall.
I think the same thing will happen
in 2007 that happened in 2002,
when truckers grabbed up the glut
of used Class 8s and sales of new
trucks went down," he said.

Walker also agreed that 2007
looked bright for the used truck
market, saying "2007 will be a down
year for new truck makers but a

(See USED, p. 31)

By Andrea Fischer
Staff Reporter

The biodiesel industry's largest
trade group has issued a "winter
weather advisory" after 50% of the
samples in a national test failed to
meet quality standards.

The test included a specification
for glycerin, which clogged fuel fil-
ters in Minnesota last year.

Although National Biodiesel Board
officials would not say where the
samples came from, the National
Renewable Energy Laboratory, a co-
sponsor of the test, said none of the
bad samples came from Minnesota,
which set standards for the fuel after
last winter's clogging problems.

"NBB views these results as unac-
ceptable," said Joe Jobe, head of the
group. "This underscores the need
for enforcement agencies to take
action against those who aren't pro-
ducing biodiesel that meets the
existing standard."

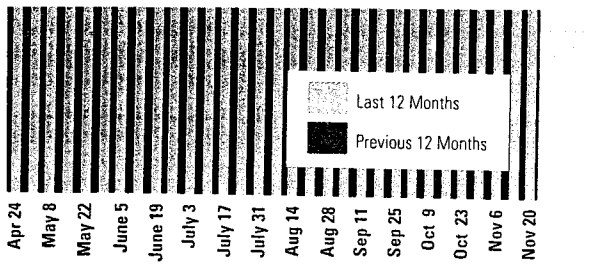
"This is really a wake-up call for
the biodiesel industry to produce
fuel that meets the standards" so
that quality problems "do not erode
confidence in our industry," said
Steve Howell, NBB's technical
director. He added, "It's also a wake-
up call for the trucking industry to
buy their fuel from good suppliers."

Biodiesel proponents tout the fuel
as a way to reduce U.S. dependence
on foreign oil while improving the
environment by lowering emissions.
So far, tax reductions, fuel incen-
tives and grants to encourage use of
the fuel have been passed by legisla-
tures in 30 states, Howell said.

(See BIODIESEL, p. 30)



Biodiesel pumps at Cropper
Oil & Gas in Berlin, Md.



2 Weeks Ago	3 Weeks Ago	Prior Year
250.6	251.7	251.3
201.6	187.4	183.8
246.9	247.7	251.7
249.0	250.2	258.7
182.5	187.0	184.9
250.8	253.0	249.1
261.3	262.9	265.2
262.8	264.6	261.5
244.8	247.2	242.3
249.3	250.1	247.7
244.9	246.2	249.1
257.7	257.7	265.4
260.6	260.2	265.2
263.7	264.5	259.9

stations at the beginning of 12-586-6966 after 4 p.m. or

Average prices for Comdata, formerly NTS Inc., are primarily from self-service stations, but also include some full- and mini-service operations. The seven-day average is based on Comdata cash-card transactions from more than 3,200 truck stops throughout the United States and Canada. All taxes are included.

T-Chek prices are Monday-through-Friday averages. The retail price is based on self-service purchases at more than 4,500 truck stops. All taxes are included.

The T-Chek wholesale price is based on terminals and suppliers from 308 cities throughout the United States.

The Bloomberg News wholesale price is an average of 163 U.S. low-sulfur diesel rack prices. DOE's regional averages are drawn from its national survey of 350 diesel service centers.

PADD stands for Petroleum Administration for Defense District. Effective May 26, 1997, PADD 1 was divided into three subdistricts and the California subdistrict was created from PADD 5. PADD 1 comprises the New England Subdistrict: Conn., Maine, Mass., N.H., R.I. and Vt.; the Central Atlantic Subdistrict: Del., D.C., Md., N.J., N.Y. and Pa.; and the Lower Atlantic Subdistrict: Fla., Ga., N.C., S.C., Va. and W.Va.

PADD 2 is Ill., Ind., Iowa, Kan., Ky., Mich., Minn., Mo., Neb., N.D., Ohio, Okla., S.D., Tenn. and Wis.

PADD 3 is Ala., Ark., La., Miss., N.M. and Texas.

PADD 4 is Colo., Idaho, Mont., Utah and Wyo.

PADD 5 is Alaska, Ariz., Hawaii, Nev., Ore. and Wash., plus Calif.

There has been a shortage of diesel fuel" because of continued high agricultural demand, he said. Several Midwest states reported spot shortages of diesel earlier this month because of a late harvest and rising use of ULSD (11-20, p. 16).

Sapp said that some of his

because of a leak, Bloomberg News reported.

Crude futures closed at \$60.17 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, up \$1.37 that day, and had closed at above \$60 just twice this month, both in the week of Nov. 6. Bloomberg figures showed.

Some Biodiesel Fails Tests

(Continued from p. 1)

NBB's members include petroleum companies, plus biodiesel blenders, suppliers and producers.

In the advisory, NBB warned truck fleet managers, petroleum distributors and consumers to be on the lookout for bad-quality fuel, and said it would work with local law enforcement agencies to identify suppliers who sell biodiesel that does not meet state fuel standards. Cold weather can amplify problems caused by fuel that does not meet specifications, NBB said.

"We'd like to enlist the trucking industry in helping us monitor biodiesel quality by making sure they're requesting high-quality fuel," said Howell. He added that the board hopes the trucking industry will see the advisory as an assurance that biodiesel quality is being monitored, rather than a reason not to use the fuel.

Nevertheless, trucking executives said they remained wary of biodiesel, avoiding it if possible, especially after experiencing quality problems that plagued the industry in Minnesota last winter.

Patrick Quinn, co-chairman and president of U.S. Xpress Enterprises, said his company "avoids buying [biodiesel] wherever possible." He said the company had more trucks and engines freeze up during the past winter than in the previous 10 years combined.

Quinn also is chairman of American Trucking Associations.

"We went through a lot of headaches with that stuff last year and we haven't experienced any problems yet this year, but we're still operating in mild temperatures," said Mark Siemers, president of Wayne Transports, a Rosemont, Minn., tank-truck carrier. "Life was kind of miserable in our business for awhile; [biodiesel problems] touched every aspect of our business."

NBB and the energy lab said they collected biodiesel samples from about 40 producers and suppliers across the country.

Howell would not identify the specific states in which biodiesel sam-

ples did not meet specifications.

"In order to secure participation from the companies in the study, we agreed that the sample locations would be anonymous," he said.

"The problematic samples were equally spread out in the country including the Midwest, except Minnesota," Howell said.

Minnesota's law, which requires that all fuel sold in the state contain some soybean-based biodiesel, was suspended for 21 days on Dec. 23 amid reports from truckers of clogged fuel filters. The suspension was later extended until Feb. 10 after the Minnesota Department of Commerce confirmed that the diesel supply had been contaminated with fuel that did not meet state standards (1-23, p. 1).

Siemers said his company "lost close to \$10,000 in ruined fuel filters, road calls and mechanic expenses" last year, a total that was likely twice as high "when you consider the cost of business disruption."

Meanwhile, John Hausladen, president of the Minnesota Trucking Association, said his group does not anticipate reports of filter-clogging again this year.

"We are quite confident that we will not have any problems in Minnesota going into this winter because [the state's] manufacturers have addressed biodiesel quality problems," he said.

Although only Minnesota has mandated biodiesel, Bill Joyce, president of the New York State Motor Truck Association, said truckers in the state try to avoid the fuel.

"We haven't had biodiesel mandated yet," Joyce said, "but this will be the first winter it gets any widespread use in New York because our state legislature passed biodiesel tax credits."

Joyce said carriers are "a little wary" of what will happen this winter as biodiesel usage increases, but added that "we'll wait and see."

"Truckers are not going to use biodiesel unless they are forced to by a state mandate, or it becomes so economical they can't afford to do otherwise," he said.



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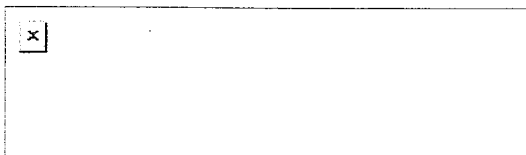
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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nov. 8, 2006

National Biodiesel Board Issues Winter Weather Advisory

Fuel Sampling Results Make Conditions Right for Caution

Petroleum Outreach, Fuel Quality Enforcement Program and State-by-State Fuel Quality Index are all part of NBB's Efforts to Enhance Biodiesel Quality

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.— Fleet managers, petroleum distributors and other consumers should consider a biodiesel “winter weather advisory” in effect for the nation. The National Biodiesel Board (NBB) raised the advisory in response to fuel quality testing results that the trade association shared at an NBB-led industry meeting today.

“Ensuring that consumers have a high level of confidence in the biodiesel they purchase is a top priority for the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) and a key element for the industry’s continued growth,” said Joe Jobe, NBB CEO. “As the industry ramps up to meet the vast increase in demand for biodiesel, this growth simply cannot occur at the expense of fuel quality.”

The biodiesel industry’s commitment to fuel quality and consumer confidence is exemplified by a six-fold increase in the number of biodiesel producers completing the BQ-9000 voluntary certification program in a single year. The industry has also asked government agencies to adopt fuel quality standards for biodiesel and enforce them.

A national fuel quality testing project, co-funded by NBB and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, found that one-third of biodiesel samples pulled between November 2005 and July 2006 were out of spec for incomplete processing. That’s the same issue that caused some filter clogging problems in Minnesota last year. Although fuel quality is always important, cold weather can amplify problems caused by out-of-spec fuel.

“NBB views these results as unacceptable,” Jobe said. “This underscores the need for enforcement agencies to take action against those who aren’t producing biodiesel that meets the existing standard, ASTM D-6751.”

As a result of issues in Minnesota last winter, NBB board members in June approved a comprehensive Fuel Quality Policy that directs NBB to work diligently with all state and federal agencies with authority to regulate fuel and enforce quality.

NBB's Fuel Quality Outreach Program has made contact with all state Divisions of Weights and Measures, and encouraged them to adopt ASTM D-6751 into the laws that regulate fuel quality. Currently, half of the states have adopted the ASTM D-6751 specification as part of their fuel quality regulations, and an additional 13 states are planning to adopt the specification or are studying it. Ten states now proactively test biodiesel or biodiesel blends.

That list includes Minnesota, where all diesel fuel contains 2 percent biodiesel.

"All of the samples from the state's biodiesel producers and terminals that we have collected and tested have met specifications," said Mark Buccelli, director, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Weights and Measures. "We have set up a monthly schedule to collect samples at the biodiesel producers and terminals. We expect to see good results. Most of the terminals are testing every shipment of biodiesel that comes into their facilities."

In addition, the biodiesel industry, through NBB, has done the following:

- Worked diligently with the Internal Revenue Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and state Weights and Measures bureaus on enforcing fuel quality
- Issued a bulletin to fuel suppliers advising them to take samples of fuel, ensure a certificate of analysis for every batch, and take other precautions
- Developed an online Fuel Quality Enforcement Guide that provides guidance on actions for anyone who has concerns that a company might not be producing spec fuel
- Built strong participation in BQ-9000, the industry's voluntary quality control program

This winter, NBB has the following recommendations for fleet managers and other consumers:

- Work with a reputable supplier who will stand behind the product
- Report out-of-spec biodiesel to the proper authorities, which can be found in the State Fuel Quality Index
- Buy fuel from BQ-9000 accredited producers or certified marketers

The BQ-9000 program, launched in late 2005, requires certified and accredited companies to possess a Quality Manual and Quality Control System and employ best practices in fuel sampling, testing, blending, shipping, storage, and distribution. This helps assure quality from plant gate to consumer tank.

Last year at this time, three companies had BQ-9000 accreditation. Today there are 17 accredited producers and certified marketers, representing more than 40 percent of the biodiesel production capacity on the market. Seven more are expected to be accredited by the end of the year.

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Additional information about biodiesel is available online at <http://www.biodiesel.org/>.

